

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KATHMA 05562 210418Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /033 W
-----112111 210640Z /15
R 210255Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 489
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 5562

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, NP
SUBJECT: NEPAL CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION DAY

1. NEPAL CELEBRATED CONSTITUTION DAY, ALTERNATELY AND EQUALLY BILLED AS MEMORIAL DAY TO LATE KING MAHENDRA, WITH NATIONAL HOLIDAY DECEMBER 16. SINCE IT WAS LATE KING WHO PROMULGATED PRESENT CONSTITUTION IN 1962 THERE WAS LOGICAL CONNECTION IN THIS DUAL FOCUS. THERE WERE ELABORATE TRIBUTES AND CEREMONIES TO THE LATE KING, BUT KEY FEATURE WAS STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF PANCHAYAT SYSTEM AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER CONSTITUTION OVER PAST 15 YEARS.

2. KING BIRENDRA, IN MAJOR ADDRESS TO PUBLIC GATHERING IN KATHMANDU ON THIS OCCASION, HIGHLIGHTED THREE TENETS OF SYSTEM-CLASS COORDINATION, DECENTRALIZATION AND DEMOCRACY WITHOUT RESORT TO PARTIES--AS BEING DESIGNED TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT NEPALESE IDENTITY. KING PUT GREATEST EMPHASIS ON LAST OF THESE THREE TENETS, NOTING FIRST THAT "PARTYLESSNESS" IS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE. IN TERMS OF GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION, SEGMENTED NATURE OF SOCIETY AND, ABOVE ALL, TO AVOID WEAKENING OF NATIONAL UNITY, KING DECLARED THERE COULD BE NO REVERSION TO PARTIES "AT THIS STAGE OF OUR POLITICAL GROWTH".

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KATHMA 05562 210418Z

AT SAME TIME KING STRESSED COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY,

THE REQUIREMENT THAT SYSTEM BE RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC WILL. BUT KING STATED THIS WOULD BE "DEMOCRACY OF NEPALESE INNOVATION", "NOT MIMICRY OF ALIEN MODELS." KING ARGUED THAT PARTYLESS SYSTEM ALLOWS PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES FREELY TO VOICE VIEWS RATHER THAN BE

CONSTRAINED BY PARTY DICTATES. KING REJECTED
AUTHORITARIANISM AS BEING BASED ON FEAR AND COERCION
RATHER THAN POPULAR WILL AND SUPPORT AND NOTED THAT
IF DEMOCRACY BRINGS STABILITY, AUTHORITARIAN SYSTEM
BUYS SHORT TERM CONTROL AT COST OF PERMANENCE. KING
CONCLUDED BY NOTING SUCCESSFUL CREATION UNDER PANCHAYAT
SYSTEM OF "INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT" OF COUNTRY
AND SAID ISSUE WAS NOT ONE OF WHETHER SYSTEM WILL
CONTINUE, BUT RATHER "TO RECOGNIZE NEED FOR GREATER
PERSEVERENCE, SINCERITY AND INTEGRITY TO MOVE TO THE
GOAL OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT."

COMMENT: KING'S ADDRESS APPEARS BE MIXTURE OF
FIRMNESS AND FLEXIBILITY. HE WAS UNEQUIVOCAL IN
REJECTING RETURN TO PARTIES OR ADOPTION OF WESTERN
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. ON OTHER HAND, ENDORSEMENT
OF DEMOCRACY, NEPALESE STYLE, AND ATTACK ON AUTHORI-
TARIAN RULE APPEAR TO BE DESIGNED AS RESPONSE TO CRITICISM
ON SYSTEM, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN. KING'S CLOSING
CALL FOR AN END TO DEBATE ON THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND
MORE ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENT--LESS TALK AND MORE
WORK--FURTHER REFLECTS HIS MAJESTY'S IMPATIENCE WITH
POLITICIANS IN GENERAL.
HECK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KATHMA05562
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770475-0333
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771232/aaaabauc.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 722f16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 161002
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEPAL CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION DAY
TAGS: PINT, NP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/722f16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009